

REMARKS

This is a Response to the Office Action mailed August 22, 2006. The Applicant originally submitted claims 1 - 41 in this application. By this Supplemental Response and Amendment, Claims 2 - 4, 8, 9, 12 - 27, and 30 - 36 remain pending in this application. Claims 1, 7, 10, 11, 28, 29, and 37 - 41 were cancelled and new claims 42 - 44 were added by the Amendment that was filed on December 7, 2006. By this Supplemental Response and Amendment, claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled and claims 42 - 44 have been amended. The Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and entry of the amendment being filed herewith as it places the application in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has allowed claims 19 - 27 and 33 - 36. The Examiner has objected to claims 7 - 9, 11 - 13, 15 - 18 and 29 - 31 as containing allowable subject matter, but depending from rejected base claims. The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for recognizing the allowable subject matter of these claims. Claim 42 corresponds to claim 1, but with the allowable subject matter of claim 7 and intervening claim 5 incorporated therein. Claims 2 - 4 and 8 - 9 have been amended to change their dependencies to make them depend directly or indirectly from new claim 42. Claim 43 corresponds to claim 10, but with the allowable subject matter of claim 11 incorporated therein. Claims 12 - 14 have been amended to change their dependencies to make them depend directly from new claim 43. Claim 44 corresponds to claim 28, but with the allowable subject matter of claim 29 incorporated therein. Claims 30 and 32 have been amended to change their dependencies to make them depend directly from new claim 44. Accordingly, all of the claims currently pending in the application are in allowable form, as previously indicated by the Examiner.

Rejection Of Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 37 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Jinbo et al. (US Patent No. 6,438,081) in view of Robinson et al. (US Patent No. 6,624,668). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Nevertheless,

this rejection is deemed moot in view of the aforementioned claim amendments. Accordingly, the Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above comments, the Applicants respectfully submit that all grounds of rejection are overcome and that the application is in full condition for allowance. Accordingly, the Applicants earnestly solicit early and favorable action. Should there be any further questions or reservations, the Examiner is urged to telephone the Applicants' undersigned attorney at (770) 984-2300.

Respectfully submitted,

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